

Journal  
Of  
Survey from Fort Pownal  
to Canada in  
1764

[Attributed to Joseph Chadwick, Surveyor]

Mass. Archives  
Vol. 243 page 85.

Passages from Fort Pownal to Canada  
Taken by order of Government 1764

[This typed transcription, made by Donovan A. R. Bowley on  
18 May 2018, is based on an 1894 hand-written transcription of the  
original document in the Massachusetts Archives, which was deposited in the  
Maine State Archives.]



Passages to the principal places from Fort Pownall  
on penobscot River

	Miles	Miles		Miles	Miles
Salmon Point	6 ½	6 ½			
Sewardebscot	12 ½	19			
Condeskeeg	4	23			
Falls	3	26			
Penobscot Island	15	41			
Persadonkek Island	29	70	From Penobscot to		
Persscateques River	3	73	persscateques River	73	73
Meddewamarge	34	107	Sooback	42	115
Rahseme	35	142	Oberneetsombeek	23	138
Bemmeduncock Lake	23	165	over Sebem to	68	206
Satinhunemoss Hill	19	184	Penobscot River		
Gesoncook Lake	39	223	from thence	150	356
To the passage to Lake Sebem	40	263	to Quebec		
By the River	40	303			
To the Long Carring place	16	319			
Carring place	12	331			
Assabahadonat River	26	357			
On the Countrey Road	56	413			
To Quebec					

The Distance from Fort Pownall  
By Penobscot River 413 Miles

And by Lake Sebem 356  
So much further by Penobscot River 57  
And 238 Miles Computed

#### Memorandum

The Indians are so jealous of their Countrey being Exposed by the Survey has made it impracticable for us to perform the work with Acquiescence. Altho they were engaged in the service by the Large wages of £ 3—10 p<sup>r</sup> Month & Canoes &c yet (at Penobscot Island three of the Party refused to go forward, and the dispute between our party & the other Indians was so great as to come to a fray. Which after two days dispute. The Result was That I should proceed with the Restriction That I Should take no Draughts of any Lands but Only writings. And saying that when they were among English Men that Obeyed their Commands & now best way You do obey Indians Orders.

Journal  
Of a Survey throu the intere parts of the Countrey  
From Penobscot to Quebec  
By Order of the Government of the Massachusetts  
Bay

The Object of this Survey was  
first To Explore the Countrey  
Secot<sup>y</sup> To View if it ware practable to make a  
Road from Fort Pownall on Penobscot River to  
Quebec  
In Obedence to the 1<sup>th</sup> Order – Returned Jany 1<sup>th</sup> 1765  
Three Plans  
the first directed To Lord Halifax &c &c By Order of  
His Excelency Francis Bernard &c &c  
The 2<sup>th</sup> plan for the Secer<sup>s</sup> Office,  
and the 3<sup>th</sup> plan for the Governour.  
That the two last had no direction (that thes plans ware  
Afterwards delinated by Mr. Miller a regular Officer)  
to the 2<sup>th</sup> Order - Reported that it was not practable  
to make any Road.  
The Commete did not order a measure of the whol  
by a Chain but to be preformed in the most

Expeditious method. Which was preformed,  
 Computing Courses & Distances as the Usal methard  
 in plain Sailing ----- as we pass in Birch  
 Canous, the distance is found -from a fishing  
 Rod Suspend a fine Silk Coed of 8 feet & 3 inches  
 in length to a Small pece of brass Latten of the  
 bigness of a 6 pence being properly balanced  
 which may be Cast forward at pleasure & Shews  
 the number of Rods Run in one minut &c but in  
 Raped water and on Land by Estamation.

Since the above Returns M<sup>r</sup> \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ordered me to make a  
 Secont plan of the Survey to Cannade – Saying  
 that the former plan that was lodged in the Sect<sup>y</sup>  
 office is not to be found----- answered as I have  
 returned the papers it is not in my power

- 1777 Finding that the Returns maed at Quebec & other Sketches  
 ware meted being returned. By which thes plans are  
 plotted, one by a Scale of two miles and the other by  
 25 Miles to an Inch with sum additions

A Return of the party at Quebec June 20<sup>th</sup> 1864

John Preble	Cap <sup>t</sup> & Interpreter
Joseph Chadwick	Survey <sup>r</sup>
Doct <sup>r</sup> Will <sup>m</sup> Crawford	2 <sup>th</sup> Surveyr
Philip Nuton	Assistent

Joseph Aspequeunt		
Sack Tomah		
Assong Neptune		
Messer Edeweit	}	Indines
Sac Alexes		
Joseph Marey		
Sabates		
Francis		



Persageewokeeg now an Incorporated Town by the name of Belfast Contains 15000 acres of Land which the Settlers purchas<sup>d</sup> of the Hiers of Brig<sup>r</sup> Waldo at 2/p<sup>r</sup> acre

Frank Fort

A Township of Land belonging to the Hires of Brigd<sup>r</sup> Waldo 3/5 – to Sir Francis Bernard 1/5 and the other 1/5 to Thomas Goulthwait Esq<sup>r</sup>

Original Proprietors of Muscongus Lands a Tract of Land Containing 90000 Acres.

That the above Tracts of Land are all Bounde<sup>d</sup> Westerly & Northerly on Lands belonging to the Hiers of Brigd<sup>r</sup> Waldo – as p<sup>r</sup> plan

Letter A N<sup>o</sup> 1

One of the first Six Townships Granted in 1763

the other Six Townships May be Noted by Letter **B** and the other Range by Letter **C.** &c

## 1764 Indianes Lands so Called

Sence thay had a Conference with Governour Bernard at Fort Pownall. At which the Indianes Ple was first in the Last War thay ware in an Alience with the French by which thay surposed themsevels to have a Right to injoy there Lands in Common with the inhabetence of Cannad by the Capetlation

That theire hunting Ground & Streemes ware all pasele<sup>d</sup> out to Certen famelys, time out of mind. That it was their Rule to hunt every third year & kill 2/3 of the Bevier Leving the other third part to breed: and that their Beviers ware as much their Stock for a Leving as Englishmens Cattel war his Living. That since the late War English hunters kill all the Bevier thay find on said Streemes Which had not only Empoverished many Indine famelys but Destroyed the bred of Bevier &c.

The Governour<sup>s</sup> Answer was That the English should not Extend there Settelments above the Falls – at Letter **D.** and ordered me to go up & mark out a Line and acquaint the people that thay ware not to make any Settelments

above s<sup>d</sup> falls – In obedience to the above Orders.  
 I mark out a Line & acquainted the people &  
 gave the Indines a Sketch

### D

On sum part of this Ground Governour Pownall  
 buried a writing on a Shet of Lead agreeble to  
 Anchent Coustom of taking possession of Islands  
 & Countres for the King

Penobscut or Isle of penobskeeg  
 The Indine Settelmets are on the Southerly end of an  
 Island about 1 ½ Miles in length thay have Seven  
 Buldings of about 50 feet in Length & 20 in Breadth  
 Covered with Spruce Bark and Lined with Birch  
 Bark in which are /as thay say/ 50 famelys – Sum  
 remains of the Sells & Serol Iron of a Mass Hous and  
 one Seevel Gun.

The Soil a very Yallo loun and rocky, Bears Good  
 Indin Corn &c - Trees are of a small grouth the  
 Chefe Value of this place is hunting & fishing  
 At 7 miles up the River it opens like a Bay Con-  
 taining sunder Islands and a Good Tract of Land

about 12 miles in Length. The banks of the River about 6 feet high and appears by the surf to be overflowed in a fricht.

Soil about 2 feet deep & appears as a mixture of Yalo loam and mud. Some large Rocks at about 6 or 8 Rods asunder but little or no Small Stones bears a Rant jointed Grass & Sundry Herbs Trees Large high Maples Black & Gray Oaks Black Birches. Little or no underbrush. At about 4 or 6 furlongs from the River is a good Growth of white pine Timber & Masts & Contains a level Land to the Mountains which appear blue – Note that mountains do seldom appear blue at a less distance than 10 miles.

On the Northerly end of the Bay Lays the Indian Town of Persadonek

The Land Contains a Fertile Soil and a pleasant place Good Timber of Sundry Sorts in particular large Gray Oak Trees - hear the Indians make Maple Sugar here Equal to single Refined – in Sundry Wigwags they have 3 or 400 wampum which they say is only a Stock for one year in three families –

That persadonk may be Called one of the mor  
Valueble tracts of Land.

The Indins Notifing ous to met them in Counsel  
and the next morning 50 Indines Escorted ous to there  
Governour<sup>s</sup> apartment

There Cheefs – are Tomah Odohando and  
Orano who ware Richly dres<sup>t</sup> Seeting on three packs  
of Bevier & the whol Room lined with Bevier On the  
other Sied of the Room 3 pack placed for ous  
there first speech was nerely as follows

The Sun rises faer & Cler to Open the Day We ryjoce  
to mete you as frinds in peace & health – But what  
we want is to desire you to carry our petition to the  
Governour of Cannada ----- he the proceded  
--- humbly Sheweth that during the time of the Frinch  
Government in Cannada thay Surplied the Indins  
with a Frier free of Expence and sence the English  
Govern<sup>d</sup> thay had no benefit of any Techer by which  
ther Old men had forgot there Religon the young men  
Could learn non nor have proper Mariages &  
Crisenings &c by all which it was not in there  
power to Live as Cristen people ought to do

Governour Mury<sup>s</sup> answer was  
 Governour Mury wishes peace & prosperity to his  
 Good Brother Gov<sup>r</sup> Tomah but as for sending him  
 a frier he has nither power or inclineation ----- but  
 as the Penobscot tribe are under the Jurisdiction of  
 Governour Bernard thay should apply to him.

Sum time after our return the Indines had a  
 Conference with Governour Bernard at Fort  
 Pownall and there made all the above ples &c  
 To which the Governour Answered I cannot send  
 you a frier. But I will lay your Case before my Marster

Persscatequess River  
 is mostly a raped Streem & Rocky ruff Land but  
 in sum parts (as p<sup>r</sup> marks in the plan) are good  
 tracts of Land on which grows pine & other Timber

Sobacet Pond  
 Land is Rockey rising with an esy asent at  
 Sum distance appers to grow hard wood. But the  
 most Valuble Timber is a large forrest of White  
 Ceders ----- many trees are mor then 18 Inches in  
 in diameter & 20 or 30 feet without any apperence of

of lins

Obernecksombeek pond  
has a Vary Remarkable Mounten the which  
Serves to Rectifie our Reckening about 50 miles  
eich way

On the Northly Sied of this Hill Lays a Good  
Tract of Land larg anouf for a Township,  
being like Enterval Land the Soil is a Brown  
Loum with sum Sand at 2 or 3 feet depe  
Trees Large Elems & Mapels on the higher  
Land Bech & black Birch Trees &c  
Lays in the Lattetude of  $45^{\circ} 13''$   
And 86 miles Computed from Fort Pownall

Lake Sebem or Moose Hill  
So called being Invirond<sup>d</sup> with large Mountins  
& Rocks. So high as the water Splays up thes rocks  
Are of the Coller of Rusty Iron. & upward a Gray  
Ston and the tope of the Hills are white – all  
which appers as a fine prospect. But the Land  
may be Called waist Land.  
Thes parts of the Countrey apper to be the highest of  
Land As the land from the Sea to this place is  
asending and from thence Decending to the River

St Larance.

From the North end of this Lake a Carring  
place & small pond Six miles. We Came into  
penobscot River

Mederwomkeeg

As we pass up the River to this place are many  
Islands which Contain many Valuble Tracts of  
Land & appers to be a plesent place  
Trees a fue large Elems & Maples.

A Vary rank Growth of Grass.

the Shore appers the Same But by sum hunters  
Acct the Land sune fales into a Spruce Swamp  
Mederwomkeeg is an Indine Town & a place of  
residence in time of War. But now mostly Vacated.

In the Mass hous are Sundry large Books &  
other things. On the Hous hangs a Smal Bell  
al which the Indiens take Care to preserve  
Land high Ground & stoney. Large tracts of old  
fields & as thay say --- have rased good Indien  
Corn

The Easterly branch is the River Midortrester in  
which thay pass to passemequode & St Johns &c



### Satinhungermoss Hill

Lays in the Latitude of  $45^{\circ} 43'$  and from Fort pownall 184 Miles as we travel<sup>d</sup> and 116 miles by Computation.

Being a remarkable Hill for hight & fig<sup>r</sup> The Indines sat that this Hill is the highest in the Country. That thay can asend so high as any Greens Grow & no higher. That one Indine attempted to go higher but he never returned. the hight of the Vegetation is as a Horizontal Line

about halfe the perpendicular hight of the Hill **a** & intersects the tops of Sundrey other mountins. The hight of this Hill was Vary apparent to ous as we had a Sight of it at Sundre places Easterly & Westerly at 60 or 70 Miles Distence.

It is Curious to see--- Elevated above a rude mass of rock large Mountins --- So Lofty a pyramid --- On which is another Rarity

From **a** Decendes a Streem of water. ---

If the observer places himselfe at such a place that the Rays of Light are Diverging with the falls then the Splay of water as it falls from the hill will appear in so Grate a Veriety of Collers as may be

View<sup>d</sup> in a prism Glass.

Gesoncook Lake

Very Shole Water & a Mude bottom.

In most parts of this Lake our Canos could not pass within a 100 Rods of the Shore by which we had a good view of the Shore & Land. but the Ground appears to be a ded Level. Large tracts of Grass Land and at sum distence backwards Riseing with any esy asent Grows a thick Growth of young Trees.

Soil is a brown loun mixt some large round Sand but Clear of Stons.

On the Northerly branches of this Lake are Sundre Tracts of Entervall Lands. And upwards in the River for two miles are Sundre small Islands all which with the Shore are good tracts of land for a Setteltment

Upwards on the River for 20 or 30 miles the Land is broken. Only sum small tracts of Good Land

Oberneitsombeek pond & Hill  
 A Remarkable Hill which served to Rectifie our  
 Courses about 50 Miles.  
 On a Brook which Coms into this pond from the  
 North- Weas Lays a Good Tract of Land for a  
 Township.  
 Soil a brown Loum mext with a round Sand  
 about a yard depe & Clear of Stons.  
 Trees Large Elmes Maples & large Older bushes  
 at about a 100 Rods from the Streem the Land Rises  
 bearing a good Growth of Large Black Birch &  
 Bech &c  
 Lays in the Lattitude of  $45^{\circ} 13''$  and 86 miles  
 Computed  
 At Letter **F** Lays Sundrey Large Tracts of  
 Good Entervail Lands --- for 2 or 3 Townships

The Carring place at letter **E** which Crosses a  
 Long turn of the River Said to be a Days journey  
 which apperes to be as Enterval Land

The Letters in the Annex<sup>t</sup> plan from **G** to **H**  
 & to **X** are Taken from Indiens Draught &c  
 The Westerly nbranch of Chaudier River from  
**G** up streem to the Amegunek Lake at **H** . and  
 From thence to the Gead of Conneticut River &  
 Cohors is the Indiens passage to Conneticut.

At Quebec sum of the Gentlemen being desirous  
 of forwarding so good a designe of opening a  
 Road to New England --- Thay began an  
 inquiry of there Hunters & Indien Traders.  
 Who all advis.<sup>d</sup> That the above Passege is the  
 niest and most practicable part of the  
 Country for Opening a Road from Quebec to  
 New England &c  
 On the Southerly branch of Chaudier River from  
 G to a line of ponds at **I K L M** is there passage  
 to Norrigew-walk. And from **M** to **N**. To Kennebeck  
 River.

**R.** River St John<sup>s</sup> said to be the Stratest & most  
 Navigable to the Sea  
**U** a Lake being the head of the Passemaquady River

**T.** Lake pomegenegaumock four ponds.

at letters **S** is a passage from Gesoncook to St John<sup>s</sup>

**V** Machias River.

**W** Narrogaugus River.

**X** Appeumook River or [or on] Mount Dessert River  
Commonly Called Union River

---

#### Memorandum

Sir Francis Bernard said That he had now  
affected what he had taken a Great trouble to  
Settel.

viz. The Bounde Line between this provence and the  
Government of Halifex. And the Divieding Line is  
the River St. Croix. Called by the French Pete Stg  
Croye and by the Indiens Magawdawa. Which  
falls into the Grand Bay of Passamaquady.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Office of the Secretary

Boston, *January 26*, 1894

Compared with the original and  
Found Correctly Copied

*W<sup>m</sup> M. Olin* Sec'y

